

December 29, 2012-January 2, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlink, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Detroit Free Press: Robert Young Jr. keeps job as Michigan's chief justice

"Robert Young Jr. is keeping his job as chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. The court said [Wednesday] that justices unanimously chose Young. The work stretches beyond the Supreme Court. As chief justice, Young also works closely with the state agency that oversees the Michigan court system."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Young keeps job as Michigan's chief justice

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Young keeps job as Michigan's chief justice

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Michigan Supreme Court keeps Robert Young Jr. as chief justice

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Young stays on as chief justice in unanimous vote

[Full story](#)

State Bar of Michigan Blog.: Hail To The New Chief, Same As The Old Chief

[Full story](#)

Robert P. Young, Jr., elected to second term as chief justice

[Press release](#)

The Detroit News: Age forces Kelly from top court; State Supreme Court justice, now 74, can't run for another term

"Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly leaves office [Tuesday] after 16 years on the state's top court, much of that time in the minority responding to opinions set by the conservative majority.... The state constitution bars judicial candidates over the age of 70 from running for office. That rule was part of the 1908 document and was retained in 1963."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Forced out by age, Justice Marilyn Kelly retiring from Michigan Supreme Court

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: MSC: Farewell to Kelly

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Forced out by age, Kelly retiring from top court

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in several news outlets including the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Daily Tribune, the Lansing State Journal, the Macomb Daily, the Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor, the Midland Daily News, the Morning Sun, the Oakland Press, the Times Herald/Port Huron, the Traverse City Record-Eagle, WKAR News/East Lansing, WILX-TV(10)/Lansing, WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit, and WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit.

Detroit Free Press: Bobby Ferguson may end up owing more over pistol-whipping

"A state appeals court has upheld Detroit contractor Bobby Ferguson's civil liability in a 2004 pistol-whipping incident and says the former employee Ferguson beat is entitled to a higher judgment than the \$860,000 currently assessed."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Court: Ferguson victim should get more funds

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Ruling: Bobby Ferguson could pay more than \$860,000 for 2004 pistol whipping of employee

[Full story](#)

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Michigan Appeals Court says more money owed in Ferguson pistol-whipping case

[Full story](#)

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Michigan Court of Appeals rules against defendant Bobby Ferguson in pistol-whipping case

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Inmate loses appeal over shift in Granholm's parole decision

"The Michigan Court of Appeals said Friday courts lack the authority to intervene in a case in which former Gov. Jennifer Granholm, before leaving office, commuted a convicted murderer's sentence, then quickly reversed course before he was set free."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in several news outlets including Daily Tribune, the Lansing State Journal, the Macomb Daily, the Oakland County Legal News, and the Traverse City Record-Eagle.

Also see:

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Michigan inmate loses appeal over shift in parole decision by former governor

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Judge: Group must tell how it calculates fees under no-fault auto insurance

"A judge has ruled that the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association is subject to the Freedom of Information Act and must disclose how it calculates the annual fee assessed to each Michigan vehicle under the state's no-fault auto insurance system. Ingham County Circuit Judge Clinton Canady III issued the ruling late last week in a lawsuit brought by the Coalition Protecting Auto No-Fault and the Brain Injury Association of Michigan."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: 44th District Court Plaza to be named in honor of retiring judge (seventh article)

"The 44th District Court Plaza will be named in honor of retiring Judge Daniel Sawicki, who served the city for 32 years. The Royal Oak City Commission approved the request from the naming committee this month. Sawicki started his career in Royal Oak as the deputy city attorney in 1969. In 1973, he became the city attorney and left seven years later to become judge."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: 'A gentle man and a gentleman': Services set for Rabbi Irwin Groner, 81

"Funeral services will be Tuesday for Rabbi Irwin Groner, who helped shaped the lives of thousands of people in the more than five decades he helped lead Congregation Shaarey Zedek... In addition to his

wife, Rabbi Groner is survived by his sons, Dr. Joel Groner and Wayne County Circuit Judge David Groner; and daughter-in-law, Wayne County Circuit Judge Amy Hathaway. A daughter, Deborah, preceded him in death."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Irwin Groner, beloved rabbi who brought insight to Congregation Shaarey Zedek, dies at 81

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Cursing woman in Mich. jail for 10 days released

"A woman who was kept in a Michigan jail for 10 days after cursing in a courthouse has been released after a second judge intervened.... [LaRue Ford] was charged with contempt after a clerk heard Ford use a profanity while trying to take care of an old traffic ticket on Dec. 4."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Cursing woman released from Berrien County jail after 10 days

[Full story](#)

The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Ind. woman jailed for cursing released

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: New law on expunging records helps Michigan's juvenile offenders make a clean start

"... The law changes rules for juvenile offenders, allowing them to request that their records be cleared if they have three or fewer misdemeanors or one felony conviction. Prior rules allowed for the request on only one misdemeanor."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: New law makes it easier to erase juvenile crimes

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: New law makes it easier to erase juvenile crimes

[Full story](#)

Daily Press & Argus: Michigan Democrats, Republicans blind to controversy in their ranks

The editorial states "As January ushers in 2013, Michigan residents will live in a state where a high-ranking legislator and a state Supreme Court justice will continue in their positions despite a highly visible cloud of controversy that brings into question the appropriateness of their holding such high positions of public trust."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Fourth Annual Tertzag Tribute Dinner planned for February 28

"... The Tertzag Tribute Dinner Committee is pleased to announce that the 2013 recipient of the Purple Sport Coat Award is Michigan Supreme Court Justice-Elect Bridget Mary McCormack. Wayne County Circuit Court Judge David J. Allen (last year's recipient) will present her the award.... The committee is also honored to have Michigan Supreme Court Justice Brian Zahra as the keynote speaker."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

Detroit Legal News: Former magistrate had a heart of gold

"Several years ago at a Straker Bar Association event, I was privileged to meet A. Kay Stanfield Spinks, who was nearing the final days of her career as a magistrate with the 46th District Court in Southfield."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Grand Rapids Legal News.

Detroit Legal News: Slip-and-fall cases tough to make in Mich. courts

"... Slip-and-fall lawsuits, once a staple for injury attorneys, have become extremely difficult in Michigan courts, especially after another strict standard was set last summer by the state Supreme Court."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Lansing State Journal and the Oakland County Legal News.

Flint-Genesee County Legal News: Judge to retire in January after 24 years on the bench

"Judge Melinda Morris, who retires in January from the Washtenaw County Trial Court Civil/Criminal Division when her fourth 6-year term comes to a close, can look back over a long and illustrious career where she broke barriers, crashed the "glass ceiling," and blazed a trail for women in law."

[Full story](#)

Flint-Genesee County Legal News: Oakland county jurist related to record-setter

"Oakland County Probate Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti and her husband, Tom, gained a bit of family fame this summer, marking their golden wedding anniversary. It was a milestone, for sure. But 50 years of marriage somewhat pales in comparison to an even more noteworthy family occurrence this year for the distinguished Oakland County jurist."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Ingham County Legal News, the Jackson County Legal News, and the Washtenaw County Legal News.

Grand Rapids Legal News: Michigan Supreme Court issues unanimous opinion in Kent medical marijuana case

"The Michigan Supreme Court rendered a unanimous decision on Dec. 19 in the Kent County-originated case People v. Bylsma."

[Full story](#)

Kalamazoo Gazette: St. Joseph County judges David Tomlinson and Robert Pattison sworn in

"For the first time that anyone in the St. Joseph County courthouse could remember, two judges were sworn in at the same time during a Friday afternoon ceremony.... [David] Tomlinson, 61, of Colon, will take the seat vacated by Probate Judge Thomas E. Shumaker, who is retiring after 24 years on the bench. [Robert] Pattison, 47, of Sturgis, will take the dual-court bench in District Court following the retirement of Judge William Welty, who served for 22 years. As a dual-court judge, Pattison will serve as both a district judge and as a family court judge in circuit court."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Sturgis Journal: County's new judges take oath of office

[Full story](#)

Three Rivers Commercial-News: Time to judge: Pattison, Tomlinson take oath of office

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: Larkin sworn in as judge of 54-B Court

"Andrea Larkin has been sworn in as the first woman judge in the history of 54-B District Court. Larkin was elected to a six-year term of office by voters during the 2012 November General Election. She will take office Jan. 1, 2013. She replaces Judge David L. Jordon, who retired on Dec.31, following 23 years of service to the court."

[Full story](#)

**** The article is available by subscription only.**

Also see:

WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: East Lansing District Court Judge [David Jordon] Retires

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Online video series about state courts unveiled

"Telling the everyday stories of Michigan courts – and the people they serve – is the focus of a new online video series, Court Stories, a production of the Michigan Supreme Court Office of Public Information. The series was unveiled in December on the 'Michigan Courts' YouTube channel and on the high court's web site as well."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

***Court Stories*, new online video series about Michigan courts, debuts today**

[Press release](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program helps

"The State Bar of Michigan Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program (LJAP) provides 'a range of services to approximately 100 lawyers, law students and judges' throughout the state who are struggling with mental health or addiction issues,' according to Tish Vincent, the program administrator."

[Full story](#)

The Morning Sun: Labrador cuts down child victims' court anxiety

"When Jeannie Wernet interviewed last year for her job as crime victims services coordinator in Ionia County, she asked her boss, the county's prosecuting attorney, Ron Schafer, what he thought about bringing a dog to work. Wernet had heard about a program in which highly trained canines are used to help child victims make it through the often overwhelming experience of court proceedings."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Annette Smedley sworn in as Muskegon County's first female circuit judge

"History was made late Friday afternoon in a packed Muskegon County courtroom. In front of more than 100 invited guests, Muskegon attorney Annette Rose Smedley was sworn in as the county's first female circuit court judge. Two women have served as Muskegon County judges, but Smedley will be the first to sit on the bench of the county's highest court, Michigan's 14th Circuit."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press Blog: Tale of Two Parole Boards

"... In November, the defendant [Jacob Trakhtenberg] was placed on parole, having served 2/3 of his maximum 10-year sentence, and being eligible for release under the applicable Michigan statute. His second appeal, known as a '6500 appeal' after the specific court rule that provides for such a last bite at the procedural apple, was decided in his favor last week in a Michigan Supreme Court opinion that remanded the case to the Oakland County Circuit Court for a new trial."

[Full story](#)

State Bar of Michigan Blog: 2013: The Judges Who Won't Be Back

"The list of 2012 retiring judges contains several judicial gems."

[*Full story*](#)